AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) A method for transmitting data, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a first plurality of bits on a first tone from a bit extractor buffer through a synchronized dual skipping switch;

(b) receiving a second plurality of bits on a second tone from the bit extractor through the synchronized dual skipping switch, wherein the second tone is not adjacent to the first tone;

(c) convolutionally encoding the first and second pluralities of bits; and

(d) outputting the convolutionally encoded first and second pluralities of bits through the synchronized dual skipping switch.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

(e) mapping the convolutionally encoded first and second pluralities of bits.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

(f) buffering the mapped and convolutionally encoded first and second pluralities of bits.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the first and second tones are separated by a variable number of tones.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the variable number of tones is determined by a receiver.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the first and second pluralities of bits are DMT symbols.

23-31. (Cancelled)

32-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35-48. (Cancelled)

49-51. (Cancelled)